



THE PHYSICIAN'S *Bookshelf*

PROTEIN METABOLISM—Influence of Growth Hormone, Anabolic Steroids, and Nutrition in Health and Disease—An International Symposium, Leyden, 25th-29th June, 1962, sponsored by CIBA. A. Querido, Leyden, Chairman; edited by F. Gross, Basle. Springer-Verlag, Berlin, Gottingen, Heidelberg, 1962. 521 pages, with 159 Figures. (No price given)

This volume represents an outstanding contribution to medical science not unexpected in the Symposia sponsored by the Ciba foundation. Gathered together were the world's experts on the influences of hormones and nutrition on protein metabolism, each to contribute his unique discoveries and to critically discuss the findings of others. Especially significant are the contributions of Dr. A. Korner of the Department of Biochemistry in Cambridge, England and his description of the effect of growth hormone on protein synthesis by the isolated ribosomes of rat liver cells. Dr. M. Raben succinctly discusses the present knowledge of the metabolic effects of growth hormone in man.

This volume is for the expert in metabolism, nutrition or biochemistry, but anyone who can understand the material will come away with a fuller knowledge of this rapidly advancing area.

JOSIAH BROWN, M.D.

* * *

YEAR BOOK OF ANESTHESIA (1963-1964 Year Book Series)—edited by Stuart C. Cullen, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Anesthesia, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco. Year Book Medical Publishers, Inc., 35 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill., 1963. 392 pages, \$8.50. (This volume is the first edition of a YEAR BOOK devoted entirely to matters anesthetic. In the past, articles related to anesthesia have appeared as part of the YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL SURGERY.)

This first edition represents an expansion of the smaller section which has appeared for many years in the YEAR BOOK OF GENERAL SURGERY. In the style of yearbook publications for other medical specialties, the contents consist of abstracts of 311 articles of interest to anesthesiologists from a variety of scientific publications. Many abstracts are followed by short comments by the Editor in evaluating the material and its application to clinical practice. The selection of articles and his comments represents the many years of experience of the Editor in publication, teaching and practice. The concise yet meaningful abstracts are of articles from the literature of the basic sciences, medicine, surgery and other medical specialties as well as that devoted to practical problems of anesthesiology. Illustrations have been reproduced to present graphic and detailed information. Cross indexing by both author and subject material facilitates location of a particular abstract and provides a ready bibliography on a specific subject. In addition, the abstracts have been grouped into 16 sections according to general subject matter.

The book will be useful for those desiring to cover current anesthesiology literature, to prepare papers or seminars or to

review for examinations. The material is not conducive to continuous reading but individual abstracts can be read during short available periods without loss of continuity. The small size of the book is adaptable to convenient transportation. This book is especially needed by the anesthesiologist who either does not have a complete medical library easily accessible or does not have time for preparing his own abstracts.

JOHN W. PENDER, M.D.

* * *

FUNDAMENTALS OF MEDICAL EDUCATION—Thomas B. Turner, M.D., Dean of the Medical Faculty, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland. Charles C. Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill., 1963 80 pages \$3.75.

The dean of a medical school in his capacity as academic leader of the faculty and administrator is frequently called upon to discuss and interpret almost all phases of medical education with various bodies, both public and private. Over a period of time a somewhat heterogeneous collection of essays, memoranda, and notes on different aspects of the subject accumulate in his files. Some of these receive publication in medical or educational journals or occasional proceedings, but undoubtedly the majority remain unpublished.

This slender volume is just such a collection of occasional papers by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Johns Hopkins University. Only four out of the ten essays have received prior publication. They examine such topics as medicine as a career, given to a biology club; a discussion for foreign scholars on faculty organization in U. S. medical schools; on the place of the basic sciences and the liberal arts in medical education; on graduate and postgraduate education in both medicine and public health; on curricular problems; and on finances.

The papers making up the present volume had their greatest relevance to the occasion at which they were first presented; but as a collection they cannot be considered as providing a very satisfactory discussion of the fundamentals of medical education as implied by the title of the whole. Despite editing, there is overlap of content which the author, in acknowledging, hopes will carry emphasis. Naturally confined by temporal restrictions of the occasion, the series read in continuity hardly does justice to the theme, perforce being at times dogmatic, sometimes contradictory, and usually uncritical. The inclusion of the four paragraphs making up the author's introductory remarks to the Gilman Lectureship, although gracious, add nothing.

Disappointing though the volume is in its major theme, the individual essays present both well and with clarity current thought on many individual aspects of medical education. Despite limitations of the essays, they can be read with profit.